

REMARKS

Claims 1-49 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-49 are amended. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 2, rejects claims 1-49 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-49 are amended to obviate the rejection. The amendments to claims 1-49 introduce no new matter as support for the amendments is available at least at page 3, line 13 to page 4, line 25 and page 16, line 5 - page 19, line 11. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-49 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 5, rejects claims 1, 4, 6-10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,880,727 to Barrett et al. (hereinafter "Barrett"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Barrett teaches a system and method that enables an assignment of a feature value from a set of preset values for a copy operation to be performed in a reprographic system (Abstract). The system and method taught by Barrett involves a series of preset, pre-formatted user screens on a display device. Specifically, for example, Fig. 4 displays a substantial number of function options, among which are a plurality of buttons marked "Other." Further, with reference Figs. 4-6, a series of substantially preset, pre-arranged function options are displayed. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no embodiment which discloses or suggests a plurality of the available user-selectable image forming function options are displayed in a first case, less than all of the plurality of the user-selectable image forming function options that are displayed in the first case are displayed in a second case, and all user-selectable image forming function options displayed in the second case are displayed in the first case.

Independent claims 1 and 4 recite, among other features, a display arrangement control device that determines an arrangement of the plurality of user-selectable image forming function options, and arranges the plurality of user-selectable image forming function options in the determined arrangement, wherein a plurality of the available user-selectable image forming function options are displayed in a first case, less than all of the plurality of the user-selectable image forming function options that are displayed in the first case are displayed in a second case, and all user-selectable image forming function options displayed in the second case are displayed in the first case, the display arrangement control device modifying the display on the display unit from the first case to the second case. Rather, according to Barrett, preset screens are displayed depending on input by a user. Thus, there is no need for any determination by a display arrangement control device. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Barrett neither teaches nor suggests such a feature. As such, Barrett does not anticipate independent claims 1 and 4.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6-10 and 13 are neither taught nor suggested by Barrett at least for their dependence on independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter which each of the claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 6-10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Barrett are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 7, rejects claims 2, 5, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrett in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,469,719 to Kino et al. (hereinafter "Kino"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kino generally discloses a layout unit referring to a plurality of menu items which are substantially composed of character strings displayed in a predetermined area of a screen in a graphical user interface of a digital communication apparatus or household appliance (Abstract; col. 1, lines 17-22; and col. 3, lines 36-53).

Applicant respectfully submits that Kino neither discloses nor suggests a display unit that displays a plurality of user-selectable image forming function options and a display arrangement control device that determines an arrangement of the plurality of user-selectable image forming function options, and arranges the plurality of user-selectable image forming function options in the determined arrangement, as is recited, among other features, in independent claims 2 and 5. Applicant also respectfully submits that the arguments applicable to the application of Barrett to claims 1 and 4 above are equally applicable regarding the application of Barrett to independent claims 2 and 5. Kino does not overcome the shortfall in the application of Barrett to any of the independent claims, specifically claims 2 and 5.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11 and 12, based on the arguments presented above, are neither anticipated nor suggested by the combination of Barrett and Kino, for at least the dependence of these claims on independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter which claims 11 and 12 recite.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of the applied references neither discloses nor suggests the combination of all of the features recited in claims 2, 5, 11 and 12.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 5, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the applied references are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 8, rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrett in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,754,179 to Hocker et al. (hereinafter "Hocker"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In like manner to the discussion of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5, for at least the arguments made above, Barrett neither discloses nor suggests all of the features recited in independent

claim 3. Further, Hocker teaches a capability to allow a user to rapidly determine interrelatedness of icons on a graphical user interface (Abstract). Specifically, Hocker teaches substantially that when an icon is selected, other related icons are then distinguished by one of a plurality of distinguishing features, such as by brightening, by rounded corners, or by an oval shape and/or highlighted text (col. 1, line 67 - col. 2, line 4).

Applicant respectfully submits that a preset arrangement of icons wherein, based on a selection of one certain icon, other icons are highlighted and/or have their shape provisionally modified based on the selection of that first icon does not overcome the shortfall in the application of Barrett to the features recited in independent claim 3. Specifically, the combination of the applied references neither teaches nor suggests a display arrangement control device that determines an arrangement of the plurality of user-selectable image forming function options, and arranges the plurality of user-selectable image forming function options in the determined arrangement, wherein a plurality of the available user-selectable image forming function options are displayed in a first case, less than all of the plurality of the user-selectable image forming function options that are displayed in the first case are displayed in a second case, and all user-selectable image forming function options displayed in the second case are displayed in the first case, the display arrangement control device modifying the display on the display unit from the first case to the second case so that at least one of the user-selectable image forming function options displayed in both cases is displayed in a shape which is different in the first case than in the second case, as recited, among other features, in claim 3.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the applied references are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 9, rejects claims 14-49 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrett in view of Kino and further in view of Hocker. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

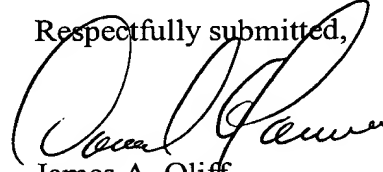
The arguments set forth above in traversing the rejections of independent claims 1-5 apply equally to the application of Barrett to independent claims 14 and 18. Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 15-17, 19 and 20, depending from claims 14 and 18, are also neither taught nor suggested by the combination of the applied references at least for the respective dependence of these claims on independent claims 14 and 18. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21-49, depending variously from claims 2-5, are allowable at least for their dependence on independent claims 2-5 in like manner to claims 7-13 depending from claim 1, and for the reasons and argument that claims 7-13, as argued above, are allowable. Claims 21-49 recite the same dependent features with respect to each of the independent claims 2-5 as do claims 7-13 to independent claim 1.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14-49 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the applied references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-49 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Daniel A. Tanner, III

Registration No. 54,734

JAO:DAT/gam

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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